IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 3-5 according to the following listing of claims:

Claim 1. (Currently amended): A method of linking a first plurality of clients connected to a packet-switched conferencing server to a second plurality of clients connected to a circuit-switched conferencing server, the method comprising the steps of:

(1) establishing, by the packet-switched conferencing server, a connection to the circuit-switched conferencing server;

(2) designating the connection as an active speaker <u>connection</u> on the packet-switched conferencing server;

(3) designating ~~one or more of the first~~ <u>a first client of the first</u> plurality of clients <u>connected to the packet switched conferencing server</u> as [[an]] <u>a first</u> active speaker [[on]] <u>by</u> the packet-switched conferencing server;

<u>(4) designating a second client of the first plurality of clients connected to the packet switched conferencing server as a second active speaker by the packet switched conferencing server;</u>

~~(4)~~ <u>(5)</u> designating ~~one or more of the~~ <u>a third client of the</u> second plurality of clients <u>connected to the circuit switched conferencing server</u> as [[an]] <u>a third</u> active speaker [[on]] <u>by</u> the circuit-switch conferencing server;

<u>(6) designating a fourth client of the second plurality of clients connected to the circuit switched conferencing as a fourth active speaker by the circuit switched conferencing server;</u>

~~(5)~~ <u>(7)</u> limiting, by the packet-switched conferencing server, one or more of the first plurality of ~~active speaker~~ clients added to the <u>active speaker</u> connection;

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(6) (8) receiving by the packet switched conference server, over the active speaker connection, a first combined audio packet from the circuit-switched conferencing server, wherein the first combined audio packet is a mixture of audio packets received from each of the second plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker the third client and received from the fourth client by the circuit-switched conferencing server;

(9) receiving by the third client the first combined audio packet without an audio packet transmitted by the third client and receiving by the fourth client the first combined audio packet without an audio packet transmitted by the fourth client;

(7) (10) receiving, by the packet-switched conferencing server, a plurality of first audio packets packet from the first client and a second audio packet from the second client of the first plurality of clients, wherein the plurality of audio packets comprises a second audio packet from each of the first plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker by the packet-switched conferencing server; wherein the plurality of first and second audio packets are received using an asynchronous transmission method;

(8) (11) forwarding, over the active speaker connection, [[the]] a second combined audio packet to the circuit-switched conferencing server, wherein the second combined audio packet is a mixture of the first audio packet and the second audio packet;

(9) (12) mixing the first combined audio packet with the second combined audio packets from the first plurality of clients into a composite packet; and

(10) (13) forwarding the composite packet to each of the first plurality of clients connected to the packet-switched conferencing server, wherein the first client receives the composite packet without the composite packet containing an audio packet transmitted

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from the first client and the second client receives the composite packet without the composite packet containing an audio packet transmitted from the second client;

~~whereby~~ wherein the first and second plurality of clients, using varying equipment and protocols, can simultaneously participate in a single audio conference application;

~~whereby~~ wherein the packet-switched conferencing server is independent from the circuit-switched conferencing server;

~~whereby~~ wherein the packet-switched conferencing server keeps a list of the first plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker.

Claim 2. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 1, wherein said composite packet is forwarded with echo suppression.

Claim 3. (Currently amended): A method of linking a first plurality of clients connected to a circuit-switched conferencing server to a second plurality of clients connected to a packet-switched conferencing server, comprising the steps of:

(1) establishing, by the circuit-switched conferencing server, a connection to the packet-switched conferencing server;

(2) designating the connection as an active speaker connection on the circuit-switched conferencing server;

(3) designating ~~one or more of~~ a first client of the first plurality of clients as an active speaker on the circuit-switched conferencing server;

(4) designating a second client of the first plurality of clients as a second active speaker by the circuit switched conferencing server;

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(5) designating a third client of the second plurality of clients as a third active speaker by the packet-switched conferencing server;

(6) designating a fourth client of the second plurality of clients as a fourth active speaker by the packet switched conferencing server;

~~(4) designating one or more of the second plurality of clients as an active speaker on the packet-switch conferencing server;~~

~~(5)~~ (7) limiting, by the packet-switched conferencing server, one or more of the first plurality of active speaker clients added to the connection;

~~(6)~~ (8) receiving, over the connection, a first combined audio packet from the packet-switched conferencing server, wherein the first combined audio packet is a mixture of packets received from each of the third and fourth clients of the second plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker by the packet-switched conferencing server; wherein the mixture of packets are received using an asynchronous transmission method;

~~(7)~~ (9) receiving, by the circuit-switched conferencing server, a ~~plurality of~~ first audio ~~packets~~ packet from the first client and a second audio packet from the second client, wherein the ~~plurality of~~ first and second audio packets ~~comprises a second audio packet from~~ are received from each of the first plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker by the circuit-switched conferencing server;

~~(8)~~ (10) mixing the first combined audio packet, the first audio packet and the second audio packet into one ~~combined~~ composite audio packet;

~~(9)~~ (11) forwarding the ~~one combined~~ composite audio packet to each of the first plurality of clients connected to the circuit-switched conferencing server; and

(10) (12) forwarding, over the connection, the second audio packet to the packet-switched conferencing server;

~~whereby~~ wherein the first and second plurality of clients, using varying equipment and protocols, can simultaneously participate in a single audio conference application, wherein the first client receives the composite packet without the composite packet containing an audio packet transmitted from the first client and the second client receives the composite packet without the composite packet containing an audio packet transmitted from the second client;

~~whereby~~ wherein the packet-switched conferencing server is independent from the circuit-switched conferencing server;

~~whereby~~ wherein the packet-switched conferencing server keeps a list of the first plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker.

Claim 4. (Currently amended): A computer program product ~~comprising a~~ carrying a computer program and embodied in a computer usable medium ~~having control logic stored therein~~ adapted for causing a computer to connect a first plurality of clients connected to a packet-switched conferencing server to a second plurality of clients connected to a circuit-switched conferencing server, said control logic comprising:

first computer readable program code means for causing said computer to establish, by said packet-switched conferencing server, a connection to said circuit-switched conferencing server;

second computer readable program code means for causing said computer to designate said connection as an active speaker on said packet-switched conferencing server;

third computer readable program code means for causing said computer to designate one or more of said first plurality of clients as an active speaker on said packet-switched conferencing server;

fourth computer readable program code means for causing said computer to designate one or more of said second plurality of clients as an active speaker on said circuit-switched conferencing server;

fifth computer readable code means for causing said computer to limit, by said packet-switched conferencing server, one or more of said first plurality of active speaker clients added to said connection;

sixth computer readable program code means for causing said computer to receive, over said connection, a first audio packet from said circuit-switched conferencing server, wherein said first audio packet is a mixture of packets received from each of said second plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker by said circuit-switched conferencing server;

seventh computer readable program code means for causing said computer to forward said first audio packet to each of said first plurality of clients connected to said packet-switched conferencing server;

eighth computer readable program code means for causing said computer to receive, by said packet-switched conferencing server, a plurality of audio packets, wherein said plurality of audio packets comprises a second audio packet from each of

said first plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker by said

packet-switched conferencing server; wherein said plurality of audio packets are received

using an asynchronous transmission method;

ninth computer readable program code means for causing said computer to

forward, over said connection, said second audio packet to said circuit-switched

conferencing server;

whereby said first and second plurality of clients, using varying equipment and

protocols, can simultaneously participate in a single audio conference application;

whereby said packet-switched conferencing server is independent from said

circuit-switched conferencing server;

whereby said packet-switched conferencing server keeps a list of said first

plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker,

wherein each client of the second plurality of clients receives said second audio

packet without the second audio packet containing an audio packet transmitted from the

each client of the second plurality of clients used to make up the second audio packet,

thereby eliminating echo in the transmission

Claim 5. (Currently amended): A computer program product comprising

carrying a computer program and embodied in a computer usable medium having control

logic stored therein adapted for causing a computer to connect a first plurality of clients

connected to a circuit-switched conferencing server to a second plurality of clients

connected to a packet-switched conferencing server, said control logic comprising:

first computer readable program code means for causing said computer to establish, by said circuit-switched conferencing server, a connection to said packet-switched conferencing server;

second computer readable program code means for causing said computer to designate said connection as an active speaker on said circuit-switched conferencing server;

third computer readable program code means for causing said computer to designate one or more of said first plurality of clients as an active speaker on said circuit-switched conferencing server;

fourth computer readable program code means for causing said computer to designate one or more of said second plurality of clients as an active speaker on said packet-switched conferencing server;

fifth computer readable program code means for causing said computer to limit, by said packet-switched conferencing server, one or more of said second plurality of active speaker clients added to the connection;

sixth computer readable program code means for causing said computer to receive, over said connection, a first audio packet from said packet-switched conferencing server, wherein said first audio packet is a mixture of packets received from each of said second plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker by said packet-switched conferencing server; wherein said mixture of packets are received using an asynchronous transmission method;

seventh computer readable program code means for causing said computer to receive, by said circuit-switched conferencing server, a plurality of audio packets,

wherein said plurality of audio packets comprises a second audio packet from each of said first plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker by said packet-switched conferencing server;

eighth computer readable program code means for causing said computer to mix said first audio packet and said second audio packet into one combined audio packet;

ninth computer readable program code means for causing said computer to forward said one combined audio packet to each of said first plurality of clients connected to said circuit-switched conferencing server; and

tenth computer readable program code means for causing said computer to forward, over said connection, said second audio packet to said packet-switched conferencing server;

whereby said first and second plurality of clients, using varying equipment and protocols, can simultaneously participate in a single audio conference application; and

whereby said packet-switched conferencing server is independent from said circuit-switched conferencing server;

whereby said packet-switched conferencing server keeps a list of said second plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker,

wherein each client of the first plurality of clients receives said combined audio packet without the combined audio packet containing an audio packet transmitted from the each client of the first plurality of clients used to make up the combined audio packet, thereby eliminating echo in the transmission.